

FAST BLAST

OUR MISSION: "Make education beyond high school financially accessible to all Californians."

DIANA FUENTES-MICHEL, Executive Director, California Student Aid Commission



MAY, 2011

A MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DIANA FUENTES-MICHEL

The California Student Aid Commission has been busy this past month implementing recent legislative changes that will directly affect Cal Grant recipients.

As we have previously informed you, on March 24, 2011 Governor Jerry Brown signed Senate Bill 70 (the education trailer bill) into law. Senate Bill 70 achieves reductions in state spending by modifying Cal Grant eligibility requirements for both students and institutions. These changes will affect new and renewal Cal Grant recipients beginning with the 2011-12 academic year.

In an effort to efficiently initiate this transition, Commission staff has prepared summaries of the associated details and procedures necessary for institutions to accurately inform their students of their options. Descriptions of the specifics of the legislation and representative "Frequently Asked Questions" have been developed to provide initial guidance as all of us begin the implementation of these changes. To provide timely information and updates related to this process, our website contains a link (located on the left hand side of our home page under "Highlights") identified as ["About SB70"](#). This link will direct you to all correspondence and support tools related to this legislation.

Commission staff is currently modifying our grant delivery system to incorporate Cal Grant eligibility changes required by SB 70. Student specific communications are also now being distributed.

Please continue to monitor our website as we manage the implementation of these changes. As always, your suggestions regarding the process and our support materials are vital to achieving accurate and user friendly communication.

Diana Fuentes-Michel
1975-1979 Cal Grant B Recipient

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



Commission Sponsor Bills

AB 1129 (Portantino) allows the federally designated student loan guaranty agency for California to access Employment Development Department (EDD) information for purposes of contacting delinquent and defaulted borrowers as long as it has a valid operating agreement with CSAC. **Status: Assembly Floor**

SB 760 (Alquist) specifies Cal Grant participating institution reporting requirements established in SB 70. **Status: Senate Appropriations Committee, no hearing date set**

Commission Support Bills

AB 91 (Portantino) requires the Office of the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges to establish a voluntary pilot program to increase student participation in state and federal financial aid programs. **Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee Suspense File**

AB 130 (Cedillo) enacts the California Dream Act of 2011 and allows a non-resident pursuant to AB 540 law to apply for and participate in all institutional scholarships derived from non-state funds. **Status: Passed by the Assembly, transferred to Senate**

AB 131 (Cedillo) allows a non-resident pursuant to AB 540 law to apply for and participate in all applicable state aid programs, the CCC Board of Governor's fee waiver, and all public institution aid programs. **Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee Suspense File**

SB 451 (Price) proposes to give Cal Grant C selection priority to students pursuing high-need, high-growth, high-wage occupations. **Status: Senate Floor**

Commission Watch Bills

AB 970 (Fong) amends current Cal Grant law to provide step increases in the number of Cal Grant B students receiving tuition and/or fees in their first academic year over the next four years from 2% in 2011-12, to 25% in 2012-13, to 50% in 2013-14, to 75% in 2014-15, and finally increasing to 100% in the 2015-16 academic year and beyond. **Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee Suspense File**

AB 1273 (Grove) states that it is the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that would codify Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's "Governor's Reorganization Plan 1: Reforming California's Boards and Commissions" from 2004. **Status: Assembly Rules Committee**

SB 181 (Liu) prohibits any increase in the mandatory systemwide fees charged to resident undergraduate students enrolled in the UC or the CSU from being effective before three months have elapsed after the date on which the fee increase is adopted and requires the UC Regents and the CSU Trustees to develop methodologies for the "gradual, moderate, and predictable" adjustment of fees in accordance with a prescribed procedure. **Status: Senate Education Committee**



KEEPING UP WITH THE COMMISSION

In an effort to provide timely information and operational updates to our constituents, and reduce paper and mailing costs, the Commission utilizes electronic technology in the forms of Operations Memos, Policy Bulletins and Special Alerts. Following is a synopsis and links to the most recent communications. To begin receiving these valuable publications, sign up through CSAC List Services. From the CSAC home page, select "Links" and then select "CSAC List Services."

Operations Memo (Grant Operations Memo/GOM)

GOM 2011-11, issued 4/12/2011, announced that Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program spring quarter payments have been mailed to institutions.

GOM 2011-10, issued 4/4/2011, provided an update on the 2011-12 Entitlement Cal Grant awards, the completion of paper grade point average (GPA) verification forms, and the late Entitlement GPA appeals process.

GOM 2011-09, issued 3/23/2011, shared guidance on the 2011-12 September 2 Competitive Cal Grant A and B award process and competitive awards for students who will attend an eligible California Community College this fall.

Special Alert (Grant Special Alert/GSA) High Priority Updates

GSA 2011-19, issued 5/6/11, provided information regarding the California Chafee Foster Youth Grant Program (Chafee) 2010-11 award payments and status; indicates that 2011-12 applications for new and renewal students are being accepted and includes notification of an upcoming stakeholders meeting scheduled for May 25, 2011.

GSA 2011-18, issued 5/5/11, provided an update on Senate Bill (SB) 70 and a list of the current [Cal Grant Institutions Affected by SB 70 in 2011-12](#).

GSA 2011-17, issued 5/5/11, announced the beginning of the 2011-12 SNAPLE NSF (Nurses in State Facilities) application period.

GSA 2011-16, issued 5/5/11, announced the beginning of the 2011-12 SNAPLE NF (Education for Nursing Faculty) application period.



CollegeWeekLive CALIFORNIA DAY May 13th, 1:30 PM - 5:00 PM, PDT



Check out California Cash For College THIS FRIDAY, May 13, 2011 at 1:30 PM PDT at CollegeWeekLive CALIFORNIA DAY for a live conversation about "Budgeting Your Cash for College this Fall".

Students can chat online with our representative from the Glow Foundation and ask specific questions between 3 and 5 PM PDT. Get tips on how to stretch every Cash For College dollar, deal with gaps in your budget, learn how to open a bank account, and more!

Win \$5,000 at CollegeWeekLive California Day!

One student will **win a \$5,000 college scholarship, good at any accredited institution**, scholarship just for attending CollegeWeekLive CALIFORNIA Day!

To enter the contest:

- [Register for CollegeWeekLive](#)
- Login and attend CollegeWeekLive CALIFORNIA Day

It's that simple! Good luck to all who enter!

[Don't forget to sign up for FREE!](#)



[GSA 2011-15](#), issued 5/5/11, notified high schools that no new awards would be made for the 2011-12 federal Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program (Byrd program), as the funds were eliminated in the federal budget.

[GSA 2011-14](#), issued 4/29/11, outlines provisions of Senate Bill (SB) 70 that changes requirements that will affect Cal Grant students and institutions beginning with the 2011-12 academic year. The Legislative Counsel's Digest for SB 70 describes the changes to the Cal Grant Program. FAQs provide initial guidance and basic direction.

[GSA 2011-13](#), issued 4/21/2011, reminded schools that the 2010-11 State Nursing Assumption Program of Loans in State Facilities (SNAPLE NSF) application process closes May 27, 2011.

[GSA 2011-12](#), issued 4/21/2011, reminds schools that the 2010-11 State Nursing Assumption Program of Loans for Education for Nursing Faculty application process closes May 27, 2011.

[GSA 2011-11](#), issued 4/20/2011, notified schools that, effective immediately, all 2010-11 Cal Grant payment disbursements are temporarily suspended due to a shortage in available funds for the Cal Grant Program.

[GSA 2011-10](#), issued 4/8/2011, informed institutions to submit a WebGrants Information Security and Confidentiality Agreement and a WebGrants System Administrator's Access Request Form to continue access to WebGrants.

Commission Contact Information

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For UPS or overnight delivery only:

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*Please direct mail to one of the following branches:

Executive Office

Administration & External Affairs

Program Administration & Services

Information Technology Services

Federal Policy & Programs

Legal & Audit Services



2012-2013

**FUND YOUR FUTURE
PLANNING HAS BEGUN!**

The Commission's award winning [Fund Your Future](#) publications (workbook and brochure), in partnership with ECMC, are currently undergoing review.

Recently, in our [High School Shout Out](#) publication for counselors, we asked for comments on these tools...and were immediately overwhelmed with numerous and helpful responses!

We welcome all ideas to help us create resources to assist students, parents and our institutional constituents with their outreach efforts. Forward your ideas or comments to clenz@csac.ca.gov.



**Customer Relations Branch hours are
10:00 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.**

**We are closed for lunch
from 11:45 - 1:00.**

**Call us Toll Free at (888) CA GRANT
(888-224-7268)**